

THAT THE WORLD HAD A
BEGINNING. 4ft7

pened, as he addeth, in the mean time,
several successive destructions and
consumptions of mankind, by means of
various accidents, as particularly one
most remarkable deluge and inunda-
tion of waters. The latter place, in
his sixth book of Laws, runs thus : ij
r<5v a

| TO irapaTrav a^{iv}
ouf/utaF yy^v, irwi yt
rfiXswr^v" a'AA* i?v r€ aa Kal
icrrat

av

v cof. Either the generation
of men had no beginning at all, and will
have no end, but always was and
always will be ; or else there has Ixëu
an inestimable length of time from the
begin* wing of it.— Which place
affordetli still more light to the former;
for we may well conclude, that by
ajmpov n jcal d/i^{avcns} there was not
meant an ab&€[^] lute infinity of time,
but only such as had a very remote or
distant beginning, because here is
plainly taken in that sense. We
therefore, that this was Plato's opinion
in his old age, -when he wrote his book
of Laws, that though the world had a
beginning, yet it had continued airery
long time not computable%y us; or at
least he thought fit to declare himself
after that manner* perhaps by reason
of the clamours of Aristotle, or aoiwe
others against bis Timæus, that so he
might thereby somewhat raolify that
opinion of the no-vity of the world, by
removing ttie epooha amcl date
thereof to so great a distance.

Now, it is very true, what we have
several times before suggested, that
th[^]re have been amongst the **Pagans**,
both Tbeogonists and Cosrnogonists
too, that were Atheists; they abusing
the word gods several ways,; some of
them, as Anaxinian-der_f understanding
thereby inanimate worlds sue-